

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2002

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SARL news invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs to sarlnews@hotmail.com not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both English and Afrikaans.

In the news today:

AN EXCITING TROPO SEASON AHEAD FOR VHF AND UHF

NOMINATIONS FOR SARL COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MOTIONS FOR THE AGM

QSL BUREAU NEWS

POLL ON SARL WEBSITE

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from nine to thirteen hours (09:00 to 13:00) at 0(zero)11 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that the Council of the SARL has to announce the passing away of Julius Abrahamson ZS6AYF on 8 November at the age of 82. Julius was a radio amateur for 50 years, getting his licence in 1952. He was in the news in 1953 when he made a contact with a ham in Honolulu using a home brew rig, at that stage a South African record. Our condolences to his wife Laura, children, grandchildren, other relatives and friends..

PAUSE

The news follows in detail:

AN EXCITING TROPO SEASON AHEAD FOR VHF AND UHF

Regular temperature inversions could occur from now on until autumn next year, producing optimum Tropo conditions on VHF and UHF, thus making long distance contacts possible on both the analogue and digital modes.

From December this year to February 2003, Pieter Jacobs ZR1AEE of Bellville will attempt to establish a Trans-Atlantic contact with PY2ANE near Sao Paolo Brazil on 144 MHz. Pieter is already testing a beacon, ZS1VHF on 144,425 MHz FSK, which will eventually beam across the Atlantic. Distances of 4330 km have been recorded on VHF and UHF between the USA and Hawaii when tropospheric ducting occurred over the sea. But longer distances are expected, especially on the new DSP modes, when super high-pressure cells exist over the oceans, such as the St Helena High and the Reunion High.

Countrywide contacts are also possible on both SSB and FM during Tropo openings on VHF or UHF. So keep an eye on the barometer and weather reports or watch the VHF beacons and FM stations or repeaters within range. Tropo openings from Port Elizabeth can be detected by monitoring the ZS2VHF beacon on 144,415 MHz FSK. Its horizontally polarized signal has been heard in all six divisions of the RSA via Tropo propagation. This beacon can also indicate band openings on 432 and 1296 MHz.

Since the 2-metre band is the most effective on Tropo propagation, look for SSB signals on 144,200 MHz or try the Digital modes around 144,260 MHz. Alternatively, tune in to the national FM “DX” channel on 144,400 MHz in the evenings between 19:00 to 21:30 SAST and listen for other divisions. On Saturdays and Sundays several Hams in East London and Port Elizabeth are monitoring this channel all day long for any possible long distance openings. If you do hear the ZS2VHF beacon then please give a call.

All you need to start with on VHF or UHF is a horizontally polarized Yagi antenna - the bigger the better! A low noise pre-amplifier and a linear power amplifier could be added at a later stage as desired. Try it on your favourite band and transmission mode and enjoy the excitement and challenge of long distance simplex communication - the real amateur radio! For more information on Tropo see the latest, the September/October 2002 issue of RADIO ZS.

NOMINATIONS FOR SARL COUNCIL MEMBERS

All present members of the SARL Council retire at its next AGM, which will take place on 29 March 2003 in Bloemfontein and in preparation for the event; nominations for councillors are invited in terms of Rule 16.2 from members of the SARL to fill these vacancies. Should more than 15 nominations be received a ballot will be held.

Each nomination must contain the following:

1. Full names, call sign and address of nominee;
2. An amateur radio related CV of not more than 200 words;
3. A signed declaration by the nominee that s/he accepts nomination and will serve on the Council of the SARL if elected;
4. Each nomination must be signed by a proposer and seconder;
5. Only fully paid-up members (Rule 16.3) of the SARL may be nominated, propose and second a nomination.

MOTIONS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Motions for submission and consideration at the Annual General Meeting of the SARL on 29 March 2003 in Bloemfontein are invited from members.

Each motion must contain the following:

1. A concise description of the motion;
2. A motivation in support of the motion;
3. A proposer and a seconder must sign each motion.

Nominations and motions must reach the Secretary by no later than 30 November 2002. They must be addressed to The Secretary, SARL and mailed to P O Box 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735 or faxed to 011 675 2793. Other contact details are Tel 011 675 2393 and E-Mail: admin@sarl.org.za.

Time is running out; act now if you have not yet submitted a nomination or motion.

AMENDMENT TO PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF VHF/UHF CONTEST

There is an amendment to the Field Station category; ZS6SRC must be added to the list. ZS6SRC obtained 745,5 points.

Contesters who are using the SARLVU program, written by Nico ZS4NS, should be aware that the file, which is written, is called sarlvu.doc. Several logs were received with this filename and as Windows cannot tolerate files with the same name existing in the same directory some files were overwritten. In future contestants must change the name of the file from sarlvu.doc to callsign.doc to prevent this problem reoccurring, eg. Zs4bs.doc.

QSL BUREAU NEWS

The QSL bureau requests members who hold more than one call sign to notify the bureau. The SARL database does not always link the two call signs as the QSL bureau keeps a separate list. This list needs to be updated from time to time.

Duplicate call signs we wish to know about include those for contests, call signs in other divisions and call signs in different categories e.g. persons having a ZU as well as a ZR call.

Time is running out; act now if you have not yet submitted a nomination or motion. Hams who obtain and use special event call signs are also requested to ensure that the bureau has an address for the organisers, as it is inevitable that some non-member cards will have to be returned to the special event station. This is not necessary for JOTA and CQ Hou Koers stations, but the bureau has no address for quite a few special event station e.g. ZS175SAP to mention but one. With better information, the QSL bureau can offer a better service.

ZS100BW QSL CARDS

The Sandton Amateur Radio Club ran a special event station at Melrose House in Pretoria on 31 May 2002 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty at the end of the Anglo Boer War. A number of QSL cards have been returned to the Sandton club, as the recipients are not members of the QSL Bureau. The Club appeals to the following stations to forward a self-addressed stamped envelope to PO Box 68787, Bryanston 2021. ZS6BTG, ZS6BSI, ZS6BS, ZS6AIK, ZS6CID, ZS6AMW, ZS6CVF, ZS6GMS, ZS6AZG, ZS6ANZ, ZS6AQI, ZS6ALL, ZS6BNS, ZS6EY, ZS6AK, ZS6DDP, ZS6EGB, ZS6GCA and ZS6BH. If nothing is received within 30 days these ZS100BW cards will be destroyed.

POLL ON SARL WEBSITE

We love to get feedback from you the members. Why not take part in our ongoing membership services survey on the SARL Website. Now members can rate the various services provided by the league, thus helping us to continually review our performance and maximise service delivery. To make your mark or just read more about is new online feature, visit the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members to the SARL and we trust that you'll have a long and fruitful association with the SARL:

DJ4EK Herr Jurgen Thun; ZR1EMT Mr Riaan Britz; ZR1PN Mr Paul Le Roux; ZS1/UA3HK Mr Oleg Neruchev; ZS5MQ Mr Bertram Cornell.

CLUB NEWS

The Southern Cape Amateur Radio Club held its AGM on Saturday 09 November. The following members were elected to serve on the committee for 2002/2003:

Chairman Dawid Petzer ZR1DJP; Vice Chairman John Fletcher ZS1ZR; Secretary/Treasurer Ben van der Merwe ZS1BEN Committee members Chris Meyer ZS1M, Konrad Scheepers ZS1KG and Evert Meyer ZR1EM.

Council thanks the retiring committee for its services and wishes strength and success to the new committee.

This brings us to the end of today's news bulletin.

This bulletin was compiled by Dennis ZS4BS and read by.....fromas a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750, and 7082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

Also join the SARL President's net, which is on the air at noon on Sundays on 7082 kHz.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also a big word of thanks to those persons supplying news for these bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX